



City Policy Process, Homelessness and Poverty Committee

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

3:00PM

- **Who We Are:** History of Task Force and Home For Good.
- **Thank you.** Appreciate the coordination and collaboration, and the work with Home For Good throughout this process.
- **Framework, Circulated in the HomeWalk Letter, which was signed by over 1,000 people:**
 - To end homelessness we need 40,000+ rental subsidies and supportive services that will move our homeless neighbors into permanent housing. Need at least \$100 million per year in **new** funding at the City for these permanent solutions.
 - To prevent homelessness we need to close the gap of 500,000+ additional housing units we need to make housing more affordable. Must take a critical first step by dedicating at least \$100 million a year in **new** City funds to construct and maintain affordable housing.
 - To respond to the immediate crisis we need to reduce the stigma of homelessness that stands in the way of real solutions. For example, championing the siting of affordable and permanent supportive housing developments.
- **Asks and Counter Points, Developed in Connection with Advocates United:**
 - **Asks**
 - **Stay Committed:** This is an incredible first step. Please keep this going...these are great strategies that we should fund!
 - **Do Not Defer Responsibility:** NONE of these plans work on their own, and with the County, State, and Federal funding, they are competitive awards we need to put up local money for to secure. If we spend money, we will get more money. If we do not spend any, we might not get any. No one else is going to do the job for us.
 - **Seek a Dedicated Revenue Source:** All these plans point out that we need a dedicated revenue source to pay for this most sustainably.
 - **Plenty of Ways:** There are nominal fees we could create, fees we already have but are not collecting, bonds we could float, and money we spend on encampment cleanups and crisis management today that we need to re-purpose.
 - **Re-Prioritize Budgets in the Meantime:** We should not wait for that revenue source to shift some things around. \$100 million/year is a fraction of the City and County Budget and something we believe we can plan for in the 16/17 budget. The City budget is \$8.6 billion, the County is \$26.9 billion, and \$100 million a year at either body would

represent 1% or less of a budget commitment. We believe this is a matter worth at least that investment.

- **Counter Points:** The debate will probably be most fragile around the tension of immediate vs. longer-term solutions. As such, below are some points that you can choose from to help steer back toward longer-term solutions.
 - **Shelter is More Expensive than PSH:** The CAO report points out that the annual cost of shelter is actually more than the annual cost of PSH (\$18,250 vs. \$15,000).
 - **Traditional Shelter & Policing are Inadequate Solutions:** Only about a quarter of the people in encampments will come inside even with the offer of shelter. Arresting and jailing people for being homeless only snowballs and pushes this problem forward to the next generation. We need to equip outreach workers with permanent housing and alternative bridge housing options.
 - **You can use existing rentals for PSH:** Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to wait years to create new PSH. You can use rental vouchers today as we build units for tomorrow. This plan proposes both forms. There is also RRH.
 - **Immediate Actions Should be Linked to Long-Term Outcomes:** We absolutely want people to come inside during El Nino and this Winter, but we want them to come in for a lifetime, not just a season. Shelters, Showers, Storage, are all important but should be used in a way that links them to the Coordinated Entry System and to permanent housing opportunities.
 - **New York Shows the Inadequacy of Sheltering All:** In New York, there is a right to shelter and years later, the costs have become unmanageable and their rates of homelessness are higher than ever. As such, the Mayor to just announce a multi-billion dollar permanent supportive housing focused strategy.